

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin having an amount of water-soluble substance of at most 20% by weight, said process comprising

carrying out a reversed phase suspension polymerization in multi-steps of at least two steps when the water-absorbent resin is prepared by subjecting a (meth)acrylic acid or an alkali metal salt thereof ~~water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer~~ to the reversed phase suspension polymerization,

said process for preparing a water-absorbent resin being characterized by adding a phosphorus-containing compound to at least one step in the second and subsequent steps, without the presence of the phosphorus-containing compound in the first step, to carry out the polymerization reaction.

2. (original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the phosphorus-containing compound is at least one member selected from the group consisting of phosphorous acid compounds, phosphoric acid compounds and hypophosphorous acid compounds.

3. (original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the phosphorus-containing compound is from 0.00001 to 0.05 mol per 1 mol of the water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer used in the polymerization reaction in the step of adding a phosphorus-containing compound, to carry out polymerization reaction.